At Rangat and Hutbay, circuits will be commissioned during 1992-93.

(c) Electronic Telex Exchange of 40 Line is likely to be commissioned during 1991-92 at Port Blair.

Premium Against Allotment of House Sites in Daman and Nicobar Island

654. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andaman and Nicobar Islands Pradesh Council unanimously recommended revision of premium for the allotment of House Sites which was turned down by the Union Government and at higher rates were fixed;

(b) if so, the old and revised rates and reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the new rates are applicable with retrospective effect and whether this has been given effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (c). Considering the trend indicating a steady increase in the value of land in the recent past, both in the urban and rural areas; scarcity of land available in the Islands vis-a-vis tremendous pressure on land due to abnormal increase in population and the consequential increase in the expenditure on providing civic amenities in the residential areas, the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration, in exercise of powers available with the Administration under Andaman & Nicobar Islands Land Revenue and Land Reforms Rules, 1968, has revised the rates of premium for land of house sites to non-poor vide their notification dated 19th August, 1991. While conveying the advice to the Union Territory Administration on revision of rates, the Govt. of India had also indicated to the Union Territory Administration that in case of poor allottees of house sites under 20-Point Programme, no licence fee would be charged.

The new rates of premium have been given effect w.e.f. the date of issue of Notification i.e. 19.8.91 only.

The old rates of premium and the revised rates are as under:-

AREA	OLD RATES	REVISED RATES
A. Port Blair Municipal Area	Rs. 5/-per square mtr.	Rs. 100 per square mtr.
B. Semi-Urban Areas.	Rs. 5/- per Square mtr.	Rs. 50/- Per Square mtr.
C. Rural Areas	Rs. 1.20 per Square mtr	Rs.25/-per Square mtr.

[*Translation*]

Encouragement to Casteism in T.V. Serial 'Chanakya'

655. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether casteism is being encouraged through the character of 'Chanakya' in the television serial 'Chanakya';

(b) whether Government would consider the deletion of caste symbolising words from the serial; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?